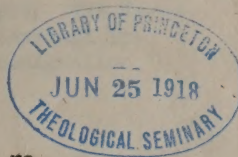


CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP IN 1916.

Preliminary Statistics issued by the Bureau of the Census.



Washington, D. C., May 1, 1918. - The Bureau of the Census has recently completed a compilation of the statistics of religious bodies in continental United States as of the close of the year 1916. These statistics are collected decennially under the authority of an Act of Congress, the last previous collection referring to the calendar year 1906. The decennial census of religious bodies for 1916 covers numerous items of inquiry, and the full report, to be published in the near future, will afford comprehensive information regarding more than 200 denominations and will give, in addition, comparative statistics for 1906 and 1890. The statistics have been collected mainly by correspondence with the local church organizations, for the most part directly by the Bureau of the Census but for certain denominations through some denominational officer or representative. The figures contained in this preliminary statement, therefore, are based upon actual returns for the individual churches, and, although some churches failed to make returns as requested, the figures may be said to represent a substantially complete report for each and all of the denominations represented.

The statement issued to-day by Director Rogers of the Bureau of the Census gives preliminary figures, which are subject to later revision, for six items only, namely, number of church organizations, members, ministers, Sunday schools, Sunday school officers and teachers, and Sunday school scholars. These preliminary statistics are presented by principal denominations and families, and have been prepared under the supervision of Mr. William C. Hunt, chief statistician for population in the Bureau of the Census.

Church Organizations.

The term "church organization" includes any organization for religious worship which has a separate membership, whether called a church proper, congregation, meeting, society, mission, station, or chapel, etc.

The total number of church organizations in 1916, as shown by Table 1, was 228,007, as reported by 201 denominations, counting the three branches of Baptists as separate and distinct denominations and the independent miscellaneous congregations as the equivalent of one denomination. The report for 1906 showed a total of 212,230 organizations as reported by 188 denominations and that for 1890 a total of 165,151 as reported by 145 denominations.

The difference in the number of denominations in 1916, as compared with 1906, is the net result of the consolidation or dropping out of 16 small denominations and the addition of 29 small denominations, the latter including those actually in existence in 1906 but not then brought to light, those resulting from the consolidation of churches, many of which were reported in 1906 as "independent," and those resulting from reorganization within existing denominations.

The small increase in the number of church organizations since 1906 is due to a general tendency toward consolidation and conservation rather than expansion and to shrinkage and disintegration consequent on migration among

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the poorer and immigrant classes, especially in the South and West. The large increase from 1890 to 1906, on the other hand, was due to more thorough investigation and more nearly complete returns in 1906, to heavy immigration, and to a general effort toward denominational expansion.

Church Members.

The term "members" has a variety of uses. In most Protestant bodies it is limited to communicants or confirmed members; in the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some other churches it includes all baptized persons, while in some bodies it covers enrolled persons.

The whole number of members reported by all religious bodies for 1916, as shown by Table 1, was 42,044,374, as compared with a total for 1906 of 32,936,445 and for 1890 of 20,597,954 members. These figures show an apparent increase in church members since 1906 of 9,107,929, but allowance must be made for the difference in the membership of the Roman Catholic Church as given for 1916, as compared with the figures used in the reports for 1906 and 1890. The membership of the Roman Catholic Church covers, as above stated, all baptized persons, including infants, but in the reports for 1890 and 1906 a deduction of 15 per cent was made to cover those under 9 years of age, as this was understood to be the age at which the first communion is usually taken; but no similar deductions were made for the Eastern and other churches having a similar basis of membership, because of the very much smaller numbers involved. In providing for the present census of religious bodies, however, it was decided, after most careful consideration, to credit each denomination with its total membership, irrespective of the varying conditions of membership, whether of age or otherwise. On this basis of deduction, the total reported membership of the Roman Catholic Church for 1890 (7,343,186) was reduced to 6,241,808 and that for 1906 (14,210,755) to 12,079,142. This made a difference for 1906 of 2,131,613 and, if this deduction had not been made in the report for that year, the total membership of all religious bodies for 1906 would have been 35,068,058, indicating an increase for the 10 years from 1906 to 1916 of 6,976,316, or 19.9 per cent. On a similar basis, the total membership of all religious bodies for 1890 would have been 21,699,432, representing an increase for the 16 years from 1890 to 1906 of 13,368,626, or 61.6 per cent.

Of the separate denominations, the Roman Catholic Church reports, by far, the largest membership, namely 15,742,262, out of a total membership reported by all religious bodies for 1916 of 42,044,374, or 37.4 per cent. Besides the Roman Catholic Church, there are 8 other denominations for each of which more than 1,000,000 members were reported in 1916, as follows:

Baptists - Northern Convention	1,227,448
" - Southern Convention	2,711,591
" - National Convention (Colored)	3,018,341
Disciples of Christ	1,231,404
Methodist Episcopal	3,718,396
Methodist Episcopal, South	2,108,061
Presbyterian in the U. S. A.	1,613,056
Protestant Episcopal	1,098,173

These 8 denominations and the Roman Catholic Church together comprised 32,468,732, or 77.2 per cent, of the entire membership reported for all religious bodies in 1916.

The three branches of Baptists together comprised 6,957,380 members, but if all 17 Baptist bodies (see Table 1) are included the total Baptist membership is increased to 7,236,650. Similarly, the two principal Methodist bodies together comprised 5,826,457 members, but if all Methodist bodies, 17 in number, are included, the total Methodist membership is increased to 7,165,986. The

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Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., as shown by the above summary, is credited with 1,613,056 members, but including the other 9 Presbyterian bodies the total Presbyterian membership in 1916 was 2,257,439. As shown by Table 1, the 21 Lutheran bodies as a whole had a total membership of 2,463,265, of which, 777,433 was reported for the Synodical Conference alone and 535,108 for the General Council.

The membership given in Table 1 for the Jewish Congregations requires some explanation. Some congregations reported as members all who contribute to the treasury of the congregation and not infrequently included women and children. The more orthodox, on the other hand, reported only those males who have incorporated the institution or have bought a share or membership in it, but do not recognize as members other persons who are regular attendants or are even contributors. The membership thus reported represents a total for 1916 of 359,998 persons, but this figure is not comparable with that given for 1906 (101,457), which then comprised heads of families only.

Ministers.

The number of ministers, as given in Table 1, is the result of information secured from various authoritative sources, either from published reports or through correspondence with representatives of the several denominations. In general, they include only those who are duly authorized to administer the sacraments and to perform all of the usual functions of the ministry, whether or not in active service as pastors in charge of churches.

The whole number of ministers as reported for the various denominations having regularly ordained ministers was 191,722 in 1916, as compared with 164,830 in 1906 and 111,036 in 1890.

Sunday Schools.

The statistics of Sunday schools for 1916 are given in Table 2 and include only those Sunday schools which are conducted by church organizations. They are derived, as before stated, from the returns for the individual churches in the various denominations.

Of the 228,007 church organizations for 1916, a report as to Sunday schools was made for 185,935, or 81.5 per cent. In 1906, there were 167,574 church organizations for which Sunday schools were reported, representing 79 per cent of the total number of church organizations covered by that census, namely, 212,230.

The whole number of Sunday schools reported by the 185,935 church organizations in 1916 was 195,276, with 1,959,918 officers and teachers and 19,951,675 scholars. The report for 1906 gave a total of 178,214 Sunday schools, with 1,648,664 officers and teachers and 14,685,997 scholars.

In addition to the Sunday schools conducted by church organizations, there are a large number of undenominational and union Sunday schools, and statistics of these Sunday schools were secured for 1916, as was the case in 1906, through the agency of the International Sunday School Association. The total number of undenominational and union Sunday schools thus reported for 1916 was 12,513, with 89,375 officers and teachers and 618,156 scholars. The full strength of the Sunday schools of the country, both denominational and undenominational, for 1916 is represented by a total of 207,789 Sunday schools, with 2,049,293 officers and teachers and 20,569,831 scholars. The equivalent figures for 1906 were 192,722 Sunday schools, 1,746,074 officers and teachers, and 15,337,811 scholars.

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Table 1 Denomination.	Organizations	Members	Ministers
All denominations	228,007	42,044,374	191,722
Adventists (5 bodies)	2,694	118,225	1,463
Baptists:			
North	8,178	1,227,448	8,631
South	23,692	2,711,591	15,946
Colored	21,754	3,018,341	19,423
Other (14 bodies)	5,156	279,270	4,992
Brethren (Dunkers):			
Church of the Brethren (Conservative)	1,004	105,649	3,054
Other (4 bodies)	287	28,724	582
Christian Church	1,274	117,853	1,213
Churches of Christ	5,598	319,211	2,507
Congregationalists	5,844	790,163	6,040
Disciples of Christ	8,255	1,231,404	5,938
Eastern Orthodox:			
Greek Church	88	120,371	125
Russian Church	169	99,681	164
Other (5 bodies)	45	30,288	67
Evangelical Association	1,637	120,756	1,051
Friends:			
Orthodox	790	94,111	1,232
Other (3 bodies)	218	20,603	50
German Evangelical Synod	1,349	342,788	1,078
Jewish Congregations	1,897	359,998	719
Latter Day Saints:			
Church of Jesus Christ	966	403,391	4,790
Reorganized Church	565	58,941	1,200
Lutherans:			
General Synod	1,845	370,616	1,514
General Council	2,389	535,108	1,664
Synodical Conference	3,617	777,438	2,918
Synod for Norwegian	961	112,773	447
United Norwegian	1,399	177,463	598
Synod of Ohio	827	165,116	567
Synod of Iowa	965	130,793	586
Other (14 bodies)	1,893	193,958	938
Mennonites (16 bodies)	840	79,591	1,398
Methodists:			
Methodist Episcopal	29,377	3,718,396	18,642
Methodist Episcopal, South	19,122	2,108,061	7,498
Methodist Protestant	2,464	186,873	1,340
Other white (5 bodies)	2,505	79,334	2,184
African Methodist Episcopal	6,454	552,265	2,175
African Methodist Episcopal Zion	2,738	258,433	3,962
Colored Methodist Episcopal	2,621	245,749	3,402
Other colored (6 bodies)	256	16,675	598
Presbyterians:			
Presbyterian in U. S. A.	9,648	1,613,056	9,299
Presbyterian in U. S.	3,368	357,566	1,320
United Presbyterian	991	160,726	995
Other (7 bodies)	1,205	126,091	1,488
Protestant Episcopal	7,425	1,093,173	5,544
Reformed:			
Reformed in America	708	144,166	756
Reformed in U. S.	1,731	340,671	1,242
Other (2 bodies)	272	48,519	214
Roman Catholic	17,621	15,742,262	20,287
United Brethren:			
United Brethren in Christ	3,478	348,490	1,912
United Brethren (Old Constitution)	403	19,130	407
United Evangelical	954	90,007	610
All other (81 bodies)	7,850	647,868	10,452

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Table 2. Denominations	Sunday Schools	Officers and Teachers	Scholars
All denominations	195,276	1,959,918	19,951,875
Adventists (5 bodies)	2,396	18,986	99,226
Baptists:			
North	8,291	112,250	1,024,125
South	18,438	159,733	1,656,324
Colored	20,333	125,474	1,204,328
Other (14 bodies)	1,196	8,656	70,445
Brethren (Dunkers):			
Church of the Brethren (Conservative)	1,288	12,726	112,287
Other (4 bodies)	209	2,555	24,782
Christian Church	1,075	11,021	89,853
Church of Christ	3,456	15,303	168,154
Congregationalists	5,680	81,690	654,102
Disciples of Christ	7,752	85,036	953,618
Eastern Orthodox:			
Greek Church	18	28	1,123
Russian Church	128	153	6,783
Other (5 bodies)	22	44	1,291
Evangelical Association	1,573	19,914	172,129
Friends:			
Orthodox	723	7,998	65,554
Other (3 bodies)	115	863	6,540
German Evangelical Synod	1,243	14,331	146,081
Jewish Congregations	700	3,582	67,035
Latter Day Saints:			
Church of Jesus Christ	1,064	18,026	152,924
Reorganized Church	558	6,061	28,222
Lutherans:			
General Synod	1,806	30,656	311,291
General Council	2,383	33,622	306,785
Synodical Conference	1,583	10,214	110,098
Synod for Norwegian	465	2,817	24,313
United Norwegian	897	5,787	44,645
Synod of Ohio	717	5,650	66,867
Synod of Iowa	808	3,546	38,120
Other (14 bodies)	1,621	11,276	95,698
Mennonites (16 bodies)	665	8,029	79,621
Methodists:			
Methodist Episcopal	28,542	391,922	3,872,200
Methodist Episcopal, South	16,568	152,551	1,683,129
Methodist Protestant	2,104	20,695	177,674
Other white (5 bodies)	1,973	15,038	111,824
African Methodist Episcopal	6,373	45,490	312,922
African Methodist Episcopal Zion	2,565	19,058	135,930
Colored Methodist Episcopal	2,543	18,890	167,880
Other colored (6 bodies)	203	1,156	9,119
Presbyterians:			
Presbyterian in U. S. A.	9,713	145,196	1,387,938
Presbyterian in U. S.	3,258	32,254	312,952
United Presbyterian	1,019	15,089	156,072
Other (7 bodies)	1,463	11,801	96,683
Protestant Episcopal	5,808	55,241	493,080
Reformed:			
Reformed in America	790	12,716	122,111
Reformed in U. S.	1,712	28,909	302,200
Other (2 bodies)	248	1,772	26,757
Roman Catholic	12,761	69,641	1,853,245
United Brethren:			
United Brethren in Christ	3,294	41,181	402,656
United Brethren (Old Constitution)	381	3,782	24,219
United Brethren (Old Constitution)	943	13,922	129,717
United Evangelical	5,812	47,587	390,997
All other (81 bodies)			

